GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:458
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Borewell Related Cases
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that borewells are continuing to be death traps in the country;

(b) the total number of cases related to borewells reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to make it mandatory to close down the borewells which are not in use or keep them properly blocked; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has started collecting data on cases reported and persons injured & died due to fall into bore well since 2014. Hence no comparison can be made on increase/decrease in deaths due to fall in bore well. A total of 50 Persons died due to fall into bore well in the country during 2014. State/UT wise cases reported and persons died due to fall in bore well during 2014 is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) to (d): The Government is aware of occurrence of such incidents of small children falling into open bore wells. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all the States & UTs through Orders dated 11th February, 2010 and 6th August, 2010, to take preventive actions on cases of children falling in bore wells as per Annexure-II.

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The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and West Bengal have issued instructions to the concerned agencies to adopt safety measures such as the closure of abandoned wells after filling and also making of provision to cap them. Further, the landowners before taking up any construction works must inform the concerned authorities. Further, the Ministry of Water Resources had taken steps for preventing such fatal accidents; look into the legal and statutory measures available, action required for preventing such accidents and to suggest other administrative and technical measures for prevention of such accidents.

Further, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens.
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